

REMARKS/ARGUMENT**Regarding the Claims in General:**

Claims 1-21 remain pending. Claim 1 has been amended to better highlight the distinguishing features thereof relative to Kuroda U.S. Patent 5,742,183 (Kuroda). The change is intended for clarification only, and is not believed to have narrowed the scope of the claim.

Regarding The Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the continued allowance of claims 7-21.

Regarding the Prior Art Rejections:

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1-6 as anticipated by Kuroda. The objective of the circuit configuration of claim 1 is to provide a short duration pulse output in response to an input pulse having a duration defined by a first transition from a first level to a second level and a subsequent second transition back to the first level. Accordingly, there is provided a level shifting device that produces an output transition in response to the first input transition, and a feedback circuit that rapidly shuts off the level shifting device after the output transition, i.e., during the interval between the first and second input transitions. Applicants respectfully submit that this should have been clear from the original wording of claim 1, but the Examiner has obviously interpreted claim 1 otherwise.

To make the meaning of claim 1 unambiguous, the claim has been amended to recite that the input pulses are:

defined by a first transition between a first voltage and a second voltage, and a second transition between the second voltage and the first voltage . . .

and that the feedback circuitry:

. . . turns off the level shifting device during the interval between the first and second input transitions.

This is not the case in Kuroda. As the Examiner correctly points out in his Response to Arguments, the feedback circuit in the reference does shut off the level shifting transistor, but it does so at the transition back to the first (low) level, not while the input is still at the high level.

Claim 1 as amended should accordingly be allowed.

Claims 2-6 are dependent on allowable claim 1, and are allowable for the reasons stated above. In addition, these claim recite features which, in combination with the features of their respective parent claims are neither taught nor suggested in Kuroda.

In view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully solicited.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by Facsimile to (703) 872-9306 addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

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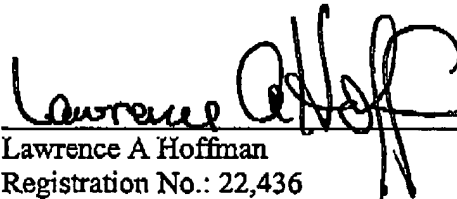
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July 20, 2004

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LAH:cw

Respectfully submitted,



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